

LOUDOUN COUNTY EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 2003

The March meeting of the ALS Committee was held on March 17, 2003 with the following members in attendance:

Co. 3	A. Love	Co. 14	J. Merritt (Arrived Late)
Co. 4	V. Chirechella	Co. 15	Excused
Co. 6	J. Downs	Co. 17	C. Justis
Co. 8	N. Croce	LCFR	L. Smith, J. Salazar
Co. 9	K. Fraley	Chair	L. Kelly
Co. 10	T. Boan	LHC	E. McKinnon
Co. 12	Absent	OMD	Excused
Co. 13	I. Askari		

Public Comments

None

Minutes

The February 17, 2003, meeting of the ALS Committee was canceled because of a major snowstorm, therefore a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the January 20, 2003, be approved as recorded. They're being no further discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve January 20, 2003 minutes as recorded.

Vote: Approved

Loudoun Hospital Center Report

Beth McKinnon reported for Loudoun Hospital Center. Beth Advised that Lisa Joyce, RN, the manager for the Cornwall campus had planned on attending tonight's meeting but had to cancel at the last minute due to a conflict.

1. Advised ALS Committee members of upcoming events.
2. Advised ALS Committee members of the access for entry into the Cornwall facility and for other coded areas of the ER. **(In the interest of security the number will not be posted in the minutes. Anyone from the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue System wishing to know the access numbers can contact Leo Kelly at JerseyVA@AOL.COM).**

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Loudoun Hospital Center Report (Continued)

3. Beth asked the ALS Committee members to remind their ALS Providers that the Cornwall campus will only replace drug used on the actual call. Expired drugs or drugs due to expire must still be replaced at the Landsdowne campus. Since there is no pharmacy on the Cornwall site there is a limited supply of drugs that are restocked periodically.

4. Beth also advised that there are aware that there have been some issues regarding the exchange of narcotics at the Cornwall site. They are addressing issues as they occur however they need to be informed when problems occur. Beth provided Lisa's e-mail address if the Committee members or company officers need to contact her. Her e-mail address is Ljoyce@LH.org. Issues at the Landsdowne campus should be directed to Beth McKinnon at Dixxy123@yahoo.com.

5. As soon as the appropriate telephones are installed at the Cornwall campus, both facilities will have the capability of providing Medical Control to pre-hospital units. Western end units will be connected to the Cornwall site for Medical Control while the Eastern end units (6, 9, 15) will continue to contact the Landsdowne site. Company 13 will contact the site appropriate to the location of their call. Beth advised that if a Western end unit contacts Medical Control at the Cornwall campus and is advised that based on the patient's needs (e.g., full term pregnancy in active labor, open fracture requiring OR, etc) that they should take the patient to Landsdowne, there will be no need to re-contact the Landsdowne campus since the information will be transferred by the Cornwall personnel to the Landsdowne personnel. The dual Medical Control exercise will be tried for sixty days and reviewed at thirty-day intervals.

6. Beth advised that with the opening of the new Birthing Inn, the hospital has now opened twenty-five additional beds. This has taken major pressure off the ER at Landsdowne and the necessity to board patients.

Company 13 advised Beth of an incident during which the Medical Control Physician at Landsdowne authorized the helicopter evacuation of a patient. In the interest of time and interest, the ALS unit went to the Cornwall ER to have their sheet signed however the physician on duty refused to sign it saying that she had not authorized the fly out.

Beth advised that she would advise Dr. Ed Puccio and report back to the ALS Committee on this issue.

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Medical Director's Report

Dr. Donald Sabella had planned on being at the meeting this evening, however the onset of a virus prevented him from being here this evening. Kelly has the ability to contact him should any issues arise this evening that require any action on his part.

Working Groups

ALS Protocols

CD-ROM's are still planned however the manipulation of the training programs due to the inclement weather has caused a delay. Kelly suggested that we alter the helicopter policy in the Protocols to include the additional wording of the Helicopter transport policy adopted by the Fire-Rescue Commission. Once that is completed then move forward with the production of the CD Roms.

Courses

Captain Jose Salazar reported on the ongoing ALS Training programs:

1. Paramedic Refresher has been completed with 38 students.
2. CT to Intermediate Bridge has been completed with 8 students.
3. ALS Testing occurred on Sunday, March 16, 2003. Capt. Salazar named the instructors who assisted with the testing and commended them for the outstanding job they did in assessing the students and efficiently moving them through the testing process. All of the students were successful in passing the written examination. Two of the participants will need to re-test the Mega Code station.
3. The ACLS Class (Provider and Renewal) was also rescheduled and completed on 3/09/2003. Forty students were enrolled for either the ACLS Provider or ACLS Provider Renewal Class. Five of the students were nurses from Loudoun Hospital Center. Thirty-four students successfully passed the course. Many of those that did not pass resulted from their failure to report to the rescheduled last day of the program. Kelly also thanked the instructors in the program that led to its success.
4. The ALS Challenge Exam originally scheduled for February 23, 2003, was also reschedule to Sunday, March 16, 2003. Two individuals were successful in passing all the components of the challenge process and can be released to Preceptorship. The personnel who were successful in the process were:

- a. Francis Rath, CT/P Company 13 b. John Gentzel, CT/P Company 15

They're being no objections from the ALS Committee members, both will be released to Preceptorship. Fred Gansel will be asked to assign mentors for each preceptee.

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5. EMT-E to EMT-Intermediate Bridge is scheduled to start March 18, 2003, with 9 students enrolled in the program.

6. Daytime EMT-Intermediate starts March 17, 2003, with 7 students enrolled in the class. Six of the participants are career personnel and one student is a volunteer provider.

7. The Master Training schedule called for a Preceptor Class to be conducted in March 2003, however with all the rescheduling of classes due to the inclement weather, it will be moved to April 2003.

ALS Technician Status

Battalion Chief Linda Hale read the names of those still suspended for failure to complete their skills requirements. It is asked that the ALS Committee members remind their members that they will not be issued their new keys until they reverse their suspension by completing their skills requirements.

BC Hale also requested a three-month extension for the preceptorship of Dan Smith. During the period of his preceptorship, Dan was assigned to a station that had a very low volume of calls. He is now at Station 13, and making good progress toward the completion of his preceptorship at this time. A motion was made by Allie Love and seconded by James Downs to extend the preceptorship of Dan Smith. They're being no further discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

**Motion: Extend the preceptorship of Dan Smith for a maximum of
 3-months if needed.**

Vote: Approved

Leo Kelly reported that since the February meeting of the ALS Committee was canceled due to snow, that he acted in the same manner that we do during the summer recess for the release of a member in preceptorship. Fred Gansel reported to Kelly that Rodney Scott from Company 13, was ready to be released as an EMT/E at the February meeting of the ALS Committee. A poll of J. Brown, L. Hale, F. Gansel and Leo Kelly all concurred that Scott should be recommended to the Medical Director for release. Dr. Sabella concurred with the recommendation and Scott was released as an EMT/E. A motion was made by Allie Love to confirm the decision and was seconded by James Downs. They're being no further discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Motion: Confirm the release of Rodney Scott, EMT/E from preceptorship.

Vote: Approved

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Old Business

A discussion occurred on the transition of the new ALS keys and drug boxes. Keys are now being issued to all ALS Providers in good status in the Loudoun County EMS system. Once the keys have been issued, we will begin the installation of the new narcotics boxes in the vehicles. This installation process will likely begin at the end of March. It was pointed out that both keys look the same. You can distinguish the additional key for the narcotics box by the "N" that appears in addition to the number. Rachel Short is coordinating the project for the EMS Council.

Tim Boan asked what the status was with the local authorization cards. Kelly said that if memory serves him correctly that the project was put on hold due to the issuance of the County ID Cards. He will check with Deputy Chief Jay Brown to confirm if that was the outcome.

We are unsure of the outcome of Robert Vaughn's status for re-certification of his EMT/P status based on the motion passed at the previous meeting. We do know that he did not test on Sunday, however we will check with Jose to determine if he satisfied the requirements of the motion.

New Business

Battalion Chief Hale reported on the following:

1. With the prospect of a war looming in the very near future it is expected the Terror Threat level may be elevated to RED. If this occurs, the Training Center will be on lock down status. If this occurs, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated and restrictions will be placed on access to the facility. Visitors will be required to sign-in with the receptionist and wear a Name Tag while in restricted areas of the building and on the campus. Loudoun County Fire-Rescue System members will be required to wear their COUNTY Photo ID Cards in full display at all times while on the premises. They have also been requested to wear identifying company shirts or t-shirts while attending classes, etc.
2. If a Code Red Alert is enacted a list of policies and procedures will be implemented during the process. There will be conference calls with all stations on a daily basis at 0700 hours and 1700 hours in order to being everyone up-to-date during the during of the alert. There currently exist policies for the Code Orange Alert status. Policies will also be implemented to address minimum staffing issues and restrictions on personnel responding outside of the County to assist adjoining jurisdictions.
3. Hale reported that they are seeing patients with Chest Pain being provided oxygen by nasal prongs. She asked the ALS Committee members to remind their providers that the Protocols direct that a Non-Re-breather mask be used with high flow oxygen on patients presenting with chest pain as a presenting symptom.

4. Some questions have been raised about the use of Aspirin in patients who take a daily aspirin or who may have stated that they took an aspirin prior to the arrival of the ALS provider. Kelly pointed out that the providers should follow their protocols and give the aspirin. With the exception of a known allergy to aspirin, it should be given to all patients presenting with chest pain suspected to be of cardiac origin. Kelly stated that when weighing the risk/benefit ratio, the benefit in these situations far outweighs the risk.

There being no further business to come before the ALS Committee a motion was made by Tim Boan and seconded by Nick Croce that the meeting be adjourned. They're being no further discussion of the motion a vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 2109 hours.

Motion: Adjournment

Vote: Approved

The next meeting of the ALS Committee is scheduled for the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Center on April 21, 2003, at 1930 hours.

Submitted

**Leo C. Kelly, PA.
Co-Chairman
Loudoun County ALS Committee**

03/17/03 LCK